

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Process for the liquid impervious sealing of one or more of ~~smallest~~ crevices, chinks, capillaries and/or openings in walls of housings which occur due to an assembly of at least two structural components, wherein at least certain gas permeability has to be obtained, ~~characterised~~ said method comprising the step of providing a hydrophobic coating on-in-that the housing wall[[[,]] at least in the area of the one or more of crevices, chinks, openings and ~~or~~ capillaries, ~~is provided with a hydrophobic coating.~~

2. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1 for the liquid impervious sealing of housing chambers,, compartments, sections which are closed against the exterior and at which a certain gas exchange with the environment has to be guaranteed, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, in the area of the chamber, the compartment or the section crevices, and the one or more chinks, capillaries, and openings ~~and the like~~ which exist within the housing wall, are provided with a hydrophobic coating.

3. (currently amended) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the housing or casing wall or its surface in the area of the one or more crevices, chinks, capillaries ~~or~~ and openings, shall be coated with hydrophobic nano-particles.

4. (currently amended) Process according to one of the claims 1[[[,]] or 2~~or 3~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydrophobic coating, by using hydrophobic nano-particles, is produced by a so called Sol-Gel process.

5. (currently amended) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the hydrophobic coating is achieved by coating of the housing wall with the aid of hydrated silanes or hydro-silicones or fluorine containing polycondensates.

6. (currently amended) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the coating is executed by using a low temperature plasma evaporation process, the coating of a compact polymer layer is achieved by depositing a fluorine containing polymer on the housing wall.

7. (currently amended) Use of the process according to one of the claims 1 to 2 ~~6~~ for the liquid impervious sealing of the one or more crevices, chinks ~~or~~ and capillary openings in housing walls of ~~electrical or electronic smallest devices, such as smallest devices in medicine, such as in particular~~ hearing aid devices.

8. (currently amended) Use of the process according to one of the claims 1 to 2 ~~6~~ for the liquid impervious sealing of a battery compartment in a hearing aid device.

9. (withdrawn) Housing of electrical or electronic devices, containing crevices, capillary openings or chinks which have to be sealed against penetration of humidity but

not against penetration of gas, characterised in that the housing wall in the area of the crevices, capillaries or chinks has a hydrophobic coating.

10. (withdrawn) Housing according to claim 9, characterised in that the hydrophobic coating is such that the minimal contact angle to water at room temperature is at least 100.degree. C.

11. (withdrawn) Housing according to one of the claims 9 or 10, characterised in that the hydrophobic coating has a layer thickness which is at least 5 micrometers.

12. (withdrawn) Battery compartment of a hearing aid device, characterised in that at the area of the housing wall of the hearing aid device near to or at the battery compartment is provided with a hydrophobic coating.

13. (new) Process according to claim 3, wherein the hydrophobic coating, by using hydrophobic nano-particles, is produced by a Sol-Gel process.

14. (new) Use of the process according to claim 5 for the liquid impervious sealing of the one or more of crevices, chinks and capillary openings in housing walls of a hearing aid device.

15. (new) Use of the process according to claim 5 for the liquid impervious sealing of a battery compartment in a hearing aid device.

16. (new) Use of the process according to claim 6 for the liquid impervious sealing of the one or more crevices, chinks and capillary openings in housing walls of a hearing aid device.

17. (new) Use of the process according to claim 6 for the liquid impervious sealing of a battery compartment in a hearing aid device.

18. (new) Process for the liquid impervious sealing of small gaps between components of a hearing aid device, said method comprising the steps of:

assembling at least two components of said hearing aid device together to form a surface having said small gaps, wherein said surface is gas permeable;

coating at least a portion of said surface in the area of said gaps with a hydrophobic coating to prevent penetration of a liquid into said gaps, wherein said portion of said surface remains gas permeable with said hydrophobic coating thereon.

19. (new) Process according to claim 18, wherein the hydrophobic coating is achieved by coating of the portion with the aid of hydrated silanes or hydro-silicones or fluorine containing polycondensates.